

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 289153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: FINAL VOTE ON UN 1978-1979
BUDGET

REF: PARIS 34398

1. FOLLOWING HIS DECEMBER 2 CALL CONCERNING UN RESTRUCTURING QUESTIONS (SEPTTEL), FRENCH COUNSELOR BOYER RAISED WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICER ISSUE OF FINAL U.S. VOTE ON UN BUDGET FOR 1978-1979. BOYER REPORTED PARIS CONCERN AT 26 PER CENT INCREASE IN UN BUDGET OVER LAST BIENNIUM AND NOTED (AS INDICATED REFTTEL) STRONG FRENCH INCLINATION TO ABSTAIN IN FINAL VOTE ON BUDGET. BOYER STATED THAT FRENCH FISCAL ANALYSTS WERE PARTICULARLY PERTURBED AT PROCLIVITY OF
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UNITED NATIONS TO ADD NEW PROGRAMS UPON AN UNCUT BASE OF OLD PROGRAMS. FRENCH WERE ALSO DISTURBED AT UN'S PRACTICE OF FULL BUDGETING WHEREBY INFLATION WAS AUTOMATICALLY PROVIDED FOR IN THE BUDGET ESTIMATES THROUGH 1979. ACCORDINGLY, PARIS BELIEVED FRANCE AND UNITED STATES SHOULD SIGNAL DISPLEASURE WITH UN BUDGET BY ABSTENTION IN FINAL VOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER OBSERVED THAT U.S. FINAL VOTING POSITION ON BUDGET HAD NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED; HOWEVER, UNITED STATES SHARED SPECIFIC FRENCH CONCERNS REPORTED BY

BOYER. NEVERTHELESS, ON INDIVIDUAL BUDGET SECTIONS, UNITED STATES HAD ON OCCASION FOUND ITSELF ALONE WITH SOVIET BLOC IN OPPOSITION TO INDIVIDUAL ITEMS. THIS WAS NOT A POSTURE U.S. RELISHED; THEREFORE, A FRENCH ABSTENTION ON THE FINAL BUDGET VOTE WOULD BE A FACTOR WEIGHING IN FAVOR OF A SIMILAR U.S. VOTE, PARTICULARLY IF OTHER MAJOR WESTERN CONTRIBUTORS WERE TO VOTE THE SAME WAY. BOYER THEN REVEALED THAT FRENCH WERE MAKING SIMILAR APPROACHES URGING ABSTENTION ON OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS. IF FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, JAPAN, UNITED KINGDOM, AND UNITED STATES ALL ABSTAINED, FRENCH BELIEVED THIS WOULD EFFECTIVELY WARN THAT CONTRIBUTORS SUPPLYING MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE BUDGET WERE DISSATISFIED WITH UN BUDGET TREND. BOYER NOTED THAT FRANCE AND UNITED STATES HAD JOINED IN ABSTENTION DURING THE RECENT VOTE ON THE FAO BUDGET.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER RECALLED THAT UNITED STATES HAD ABSTAINED ON PREVIOUS UN BIENNIAL BUDGET, WHEREAS FRANCE HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF THAT BUDGET. BOYER THOUGHT THAT MADE IT ALL THE MORE IMPERATIVE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD JOIN FRANCE IN ABSTAINING BECAUSE IF IT DID NOT AND

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VOTED IN FAVOR, THE UN SYSTEM WOULD BE RECEIVING AN AMBIGUOUS AND INEFFECTIVE SIGNAL. DEPARTMENT OFFICER PROMISED TO INFORM BOYER OF U.S. VOTING DECISION WHEN IT WAS TAKEN.

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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